

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, July 14, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:06 P.M.

Present: Tom Williams, Chair; Christina Bollo, Vice-Chair; Mark Bandy, Mark Landreneau, Jon Morgan, Seth Schromen-Wawrin, Jeniffer Calleja, members; Brian Dougherty, SDOT Liaison. Absent: Ben Smith, Betty Arens, Kristen Lohse, Vanessa Lund..

June meeting minutes: Approved by voice vote.

Public comment: None.

Montlake Triangle Update. Kerri Ruth, WSDOT.

Kerri talked about three options that were evaluated for the crossing of Montlake near the Sound Transit station. Three options were evaluated by a team consisting of representatives from U of W, Sound Transit, SDOT, WSDOT, and Metro,

One option, a crossing from the north end of the light rail station to the UW Rainier Vista area, was eliminated because the team felt it was important to serve more than just light rail users.

A second option, an undercrossing (tunnel) under Montlake, was also rejected because it was felt to not adequately serve those not using transit.

The third, and at this point favored option, is a bridge over Montlake to Rainier Vista. There would be a dedicated ped/bike path on the east side of Montlake and wider crosswalks at the intersection of Montlake and Pacific Street. Kerri said that there would be “improvements” to the crossing at Montlake and Pacific Place, but said specifics weren’t available until it was determined which agency would “own” (and pay for) the project.

Jon objected to the bridge option, saying that there were very few justifications for not allowing pedestrians to have an at-grade crossing, citing interstate highways and rail crossings as exceptions. Kerri replied that the EIS required a grade-separated crossing as does the Federal Transit Administration.

Mark B. said that the crossing at the north end of Pacific Place and Montlake is key to pedestrian connectivity in the area.

Christina wanted to know more about transit use at the Triangle. Would it be a hub for users coming to and from the Eastside or would those riders use a connection at Montlake?

Kerri said that the final decision has not been made pending discussions amongst the various governmental agencies on who would take the lead role and who would pay for it.

(Park)ing Day. Max Hepp-Buchanan, Feet First.

Max outlined the history of the event. It started in San Francisco and had its first Seattle event in 2007. There were 45 participants last year; the goal is 100 this year.

Partners include SDOT, Streets for All Seattle, Trust for Public Land, and the Seattle Parks Foundation.

The goals:

- Educate the public about pedestrian and other non-motorized forms of transportation.
- Educate the public regarding the amount of space used for movement and storage of vehicles.
- Advocate for non-motorized forms of travel.

Max asked for ideas about how to promote the event and encourage people to participate.

Christina said that an early start and getting early commitments was critical as SDOT's procedures take several weeks to finalize. Max said that he didn't anticipate that the process would be as difficult as in years past.

Stone Way Rechannalization Report. Brian Dougherty, SDOT.

Brian said that the recently completed post-project study showed benefits for all modes, including new and better crosswalks, slower speeds, and more bike lanes.

Two things that weren't studied were traffic signal service and diversion to other arterials (diversion to neighborhood streets was studied).

Mark suggested that future studies include an assessment of how well drivers are complying with stops and not just use changes in pedestrian volumes as an indicator of how well the project worked for pedestrians. He also wanted to know the effect of the signalized intersections on rear-end collisions.

Jon wanted to know if transit performance could be included in future studies. Brian said that Metro generally prefers in-lane stops which generally aren't accommodated in three-lane rechannalization projects.

There will be 7 more rechannelizations in 2010 and 6 more are being studied.

Upcoming agenda items.

West Seattle walk with Councilmember Tom Rasmussen.

Howard suggested going over the SDOT project list. There was some discussion about the Viaduct, but it was decided to defer that until December. Mercer was also discussed in light of the public forum earlier that week. Mark felt that we should take a stand on this issue and said he would draft a letter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.